



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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84-2992/1

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

6 August 1984

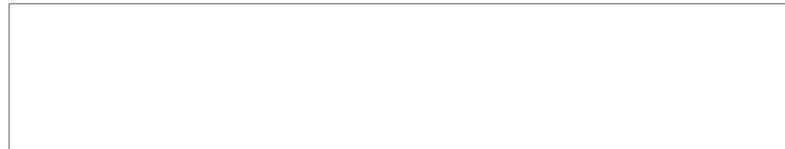


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Thank you for writing Director Casey, for whom I am responding about your experiences in Nicaragua.

We have forwarded your trip report to the appropriate office in our Agency for review. We share your concerns and appreciate hearing your views.

Sincerely,



C Deputy Director

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

TO:

| | | ACTION | INFO | DATE | INITIAL |
|----------|-----------|--------|------|------|---------|
| 1 | DCI | | | | |
| 2 | DDCI | | | | |
| 3 | EXDIR | | | | |
| 4 | D/ICS | | | | |
| 5 | DDI | | | | |
| 6 | DDA | | | | |
| 7 | DDO | | | | |
| 8 | DDS&T | | | | |
| 9 | Chm/NIC | | | | |
| 10 | GC | | | | |
| 11 | IG | | | | |
| 12 | Compt | | | | |
| 13 | D/Pers | | | | |
| 14 | D/OLL | ✓ | | | |
| 15 | D/PAO | ✓ | | | |
| 16 | SA/IA | | | | |
| 17 | AO/DCI | | | | |
| 18 | C/IPD/OIS | | | | |
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| 20 | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | |
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| SUSPENSE | | Date | | | |

Remarks

JS
Executive Secretary
7/26/84
Date

3637 (10-81)

Executive Registry

84-2992

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[redacted]
July 23, 1984

Hon. William J. Casey, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington D.C 20505

Dear Hon. William J. Casey

I recently participated in a two week interfaith peacemaking trip to Nicaragua organized by [redacted] is a national organization of religious people concerned about United States military intervention in Central America. The trip took twenty of us - including priests, nuns, ministers, and myself, [redacted] to areas in Nicaragua that have experienced attacks from C.I.A. backed counter-revolutionaries (contras) over the past several years.

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During our trip we spent time in the town [redacted] located near the border of Honduras. We arrived [redacted] just three days after the worst contra attack to date: some six hundred contras had attacked the town in the middle of the night, killing fifteen townspeople, wounding many more, and destroying important work projects. Among the sites devastated by mortar fire and high explosives were the radio station (where two men were set ablaze with gasoline), the coffee processing plant (the fresh blood of the slain nightguard still visible on the floor), the electrical plant office, the lumber yard, and a granary housing the food grain staples (beans, rice, corn) for the town and the surrounding region. Hundreds of tons of food supplies were ruined. The results of this devastation is thousands unemployed and without food. All the targets of this attack were civilian, not military. The nearby army headquarters had not been touched. Left behind by the contras were shell casings labelled "Nato" and detailed manuals on "Fighting for Liberty" which gave instructions for, among other things, molotov cocktails.

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Upon visiting towns in the south on the Costa Rican border, we found the same situation: raids against civilians. The terms the people used to describe the contras were "beasts", "animals", and "assassins". Again and again we heard reports of kidnappings, torture, mutilations, beheadings, and murder.

As a United States citizen I am ashamed and horrified that my government is supporting such atrocities, particularly in the name of freedom. As a religious person I believe human life to be sacred - both United States citizens and Nicaraguans, all human beings, are created in the image of God. Those Nicaraguans living in the border towns we visited,

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subject to attack and living under constant dread, deserve our concern for their well-being.

Belief in the democratic principles upon which this country was founded (the right to self-determination) as well as belief in God's law of justice and respect for the sacredness of human life, impells us to demand an end to United States support of this terrorism which the C.I.A. armed and trained contras are unleashing against innocent civilians in Nicaragua.

We group will share our experiences as widely as possible. We hope to mobilize public opposition to present United States policy. I urge you, out of love of God and humanity, to do all that is in your power to stop the United States supported bloodshed in Nicaragua.

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Yours toward shalom.

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